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agricultural situation

THE CROP REPORTERS MAGAZINE • JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1975
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL
CENSUS:
WEATHERVANE
OF CHANGE

AGRICULTURAL CENSUS: WEATHERVANE OF CHANGE

What changes have occurred in U.S. agriculture in the past 5 years? Are there more or fewer farms? How is farmland being used? How is the livestock industry changing?

These kinds of questions about where U.S. agriculture is now—and where it seems to be going—will be answered by the 1974 Census of Agriculture.

The upcoming census, 20th in a series of nationwide farm counts dating back to 1840, serves as a critical planning base for everyone whose livelihood depends on farming. At the time of the last census, farms and farmers ultimately provided about one-third of the Nation's jobs.

Following are the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the agricultural census, with special emphasis on the 1974 survey.

How will the census be taken?

In 1974, as in 1969, the agricultural census will be by mail. Questionnaires will be mailed out the last of December 1974 and are to be filled out and mailed back as soon as possible.

A detailed report form will be sent to all farms with annual sales of \$2,500 or more, while a short form will be dispatched to farmers with sales under \$2,500.

Census by mail allows farmers to

complete reports at their convenience and to make use of farm business records. In the absence of records, best estimates are acceptable.

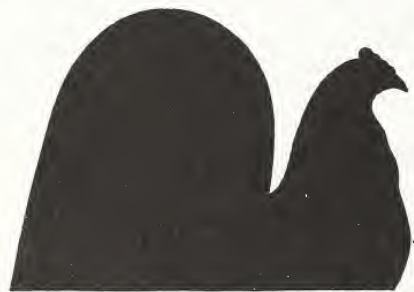
Must a farmer complete and return his report form?

Just as the law requires that a census be taken, it also requires you to respond. It is a violation of Federal law not to do so. However, you may report orally to a Census Bureau representative.

Because the same census report form is used in all parts of the United States and contains questions that apply to many different kinds of agriculture, there may be many questions that don't apply to your individual operation. When that's the case, simply check the "No" box and go on to the next section.

Who's included in the census?

The mailing list of farm operators was compiled largely from administrative records of Federal agencies. The list includes nearly all places



and farm operators having some agricultural operations.

Who sees the completed form?

By Federal law, your answers are confidential and can be seen only by census employees who are subject to fine and imprisonment for revealing any information. Individual farm data are never given to any other government agency, local officials, tax collectors, police, health or welfare personnel, or anyone else.

When the reports are processed, all personal identification, such as name and address, are withheld as the numbers are fed into computers. This means that no farmer and no individual farm data are identifiable in the resulting output.

What kinds of questions will the census ask?

Three kinds of information will be requested about 1974 operations:

—First, a count of farm resources, number of farms, area of farmland, acres of cropland and pasture, number of each kind of livestock and poultry, number of persons working on farms, number of various kinds of farm equipment.

—Second, a record of farm products produced and sold during 1974.

—Third, selected farming activi-

ties during 1974 such as number of days of off-farm work by the farmer, amount spent for farm labor, for custom work, for feed, for gasoline and oil.

Specialized agriculture is covered in questions dealing with all types of esoteric activities—ranging from hydroponic to goat farming.

Among the few different wrinkles in the 1974 census will be: a new set of questions on work-related injuries and illnesses, farmers' use of production and marketing contracts and use of the commodity futures market, and on-farm grain and fuel storage capacities.

Several items have been added in the cattle section which will make it possible to report beef and dairy cattle separately in more detail.

Are there any other censuses of agriculture coming up or will this be all until 1979?

No special followup surveys will be taken after the 1974 census. (There were several special surveys taken after the 1969 count but these will be omitted this time.)



Nevertheless, the Census Bureau may be contacting you again sooner than 1979.

The traditional schedule of taking a census of agriculture for years ending in 4 and 9 may be changed in order that data on agriculture—the Nation's biggest business—be collected for the same period as that on business, manufacturing, and construction. Data on these economic activities are collected covering years ending in 2 and 7.

The Census Bureau has proposed that the next agricultural census cover 1978 and the following one cover 1982. Thus, there would be only a 4-year lapse between the next two agricultural censuses until they are brought into line with the other economic censuses.

When will the 1974 census data be published?

Although the report forms (4½ million) will be mailed out in late December 1974 and received by farmers within a few days, 6 months are being allowed to complete all census taking. In other words, data collection won't be closed out until June 30, 1975.

Since the data for each county must be complete before the Census Bureau can begin preparing the county reports, it will be the latter

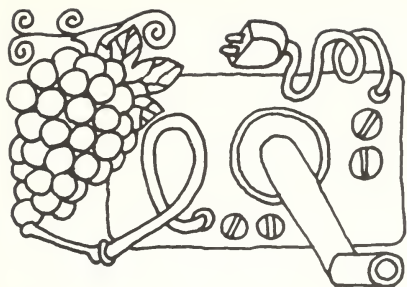
part of 1975 before any reports are released.

How will the census data be used?

It is from the census of agriculture, conducted every 5 years, that data are taken to form the basis for programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Congressional farm legislation, farm organization policies, farm programs established and administered by State departments of agriculture, and many other services provided by colleges, business firms, manufacturers, publishers, and broadcasters.

The census is the only source of statistics on agriculture that are comparable from county to county nationwide. It is also the sole source of comprehensive data tabulated for each State and for the United States for farms classified by size, tenure, type or organization, market value of products sold, and type of farm enterprise.





MECHANICAL GRAPES

With the development of a new handling system, grape growers now have a totally integrated procedure to efficiently utilize harvesting machines.

The new system, developed by USDA agricultural engineers, is designed to get grapes from vineyard to processor faster and with less effort.

After being mechanically harvested, self-dumping trailers take the grapes to bulk tank trucks in the field, which haul the crop to the processing plant. There, the trucks back up to a receiving hopper, upend their load hydraulically, and pour out the grapes.

Eliminating old style plastic lugs and pallet boxes, the new system was used in Michigan to handle nearly 2 million pounds of Concord grapes in 1970, and over 5 million pounds in both 1971 and 1972.

About 90 percent of the U.S. Concord grape crop was harvested mechanically in 1972, with harvesting machines now widely used in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and other States.

Grape harvesting machines ride through the vineyard, straddling the vines and shaking them with flexible arms or spiked wheels. The detached grapes fall inside the machine where air currents remove leaves, stems, and other debris. Then the grapes are elevated on a belt conveyor into a trailer.

Researchers note the equipment can be used to harvest and process the fruit without sacrificing any of the high quality of the grapes.

Both laboratory and taste-panel tests indicate that juice made from mechanically harvested grapes compares favorably in color and flavor with that made from hand-picked grapes and with commercial grape juice.

NEW LOOK IN LEATHER

"Out with the hide bound, in with the hide bond," may become the motto of today's leather industry.

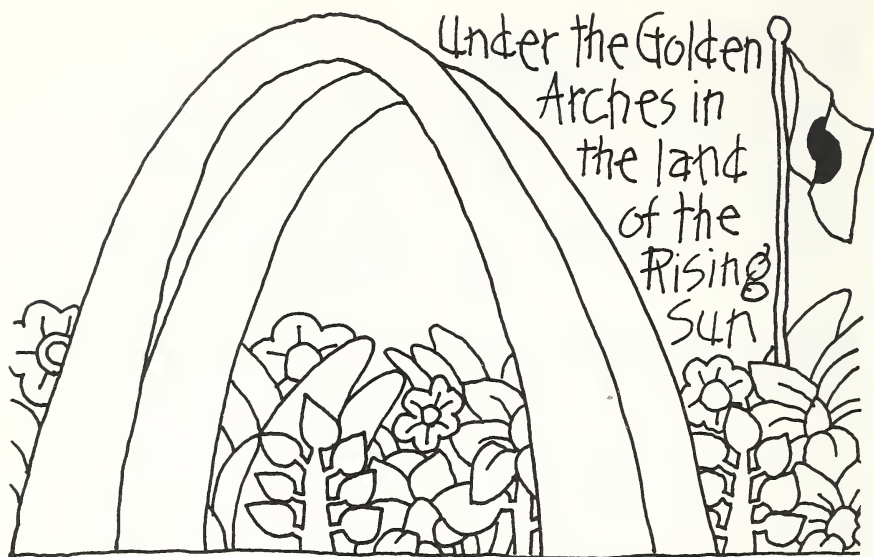
Graft polymerization, a brand new tanning technique developed by scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, is giving a new look and feel to U.S. leathers.

The process involves an actual chemical bonding of the animal hide with a plastic polymer—producing an entirely new, permanently modified leather.

The bonded leather is stronger and more uniform in appearance than the untreated product—and is more receptive to dyes and to functional treatments, such as those for water repellancy. And depending on particular requirements, the bonded leather can be made either more rigid—for shoemaking—or softer and more supple—which should be beneficial for garment or upholstery manufacturers.

Graft polymerization is now being experimented with in commercial tanneries where it should prove to be a feasible and economical operation.

Estimates are that the making of graft-polymerized leather would only cost an additional 1 to 2 cents per square foot compared with ordinary leather. Thus, graft polymerization may provide a means for leather to compete with synthetics.



Restaurants serving western-style foods have jumped to the top of the growth charts in Japan's food industry—a fact which is luring more and more U.S. franchises to the Land of the Rising Sun and which offers big opportunities for U.S. exporters of processed and semiprocessed foods.

At the close of 1972, there were 15 foreign fast food enterprises operating in Japan with 170 outlets. By the end of 1973, the number of outlets had zoomed to 500.

These enterprises, each specializing in a single category of fast food service, such as hamburgers, fried chicken, doughnuts, ice cream, pizza, or stews, are expected to have more than 2,500 outlets in Japan by the end of 1975. Practically all of these restaurants are joint ventures between U.S. and Japanese firms.

The success of these American-type foods and food service restaurants in Japan is readily apparent.

For example, Mister Donut, a joint venture firm, recently disclosed that 1973 sales reached \$14 million, a tremendous 260-percent jump over the previous year.

The Tokyo-based Japan

McDonald's announced sales totaling \$13.5 million in 1973, more than double the previous year's sales of \$6.4 million.

The McDonald's store in Ginza, a busy street in downtown Tokyo, recently sold \$10,607 worth of hamburgers in 1 day. This is reportedly the highest daily sales level ever achieved by any of the company's 3,200 stores in 16 countries.

The growing popularity of western style eating offers a golden export opportunity for U.S. exporters of processed and semiprocessed foods.

Japan is already the largest single country overseas market for U.S. food and agricultural products. In 1973 U.S. farm exports to Japan totaled more than \$3 billion, representing about a third of all Japan's farm product imports.

U. S. sales of consumer ready items amounted to \$262.5 million in 1973, showing a 500-percent growth in sales value since 1970. And it would seem even larger sales lie ahead.

(Use of commercial and trade names does not imply approval or constitute endorsement by USDA or the Statistical Reporting Service.)

EXPORT CHAMPIONS

If fiscal 1974 was a record-breaking farm export year, 10 States could take special pride in the role they played in setting the new high. For these 10 were the ones that sold nearly \$13 billion—three-fifths—of the fiscal 1974 total of \$21.3 billion.

Top salesman to the world was Illinois, with nearly \$2 billion worth of farm exports, almost 50 percent more than its sales in fiscal 1973. Iowa was runner-up with just under \$1.8 billion. Then followed: Texas, \$1.7 billion; Kansas, \$1.6 billion; California, \$1.2 billion; Minnesota, just under \$1.2 billion; Nebraska, \$1.0 billion; Indiana, \$967 million; North Dakota, \$842 million; and North Carolina, \$772 million.

The export sales of Texas and Kansas in fiscal 1974 were more than double 1973 levels, primarily because of higher prices and increased output of wheat.

Fiscal 1974 sales represented the output of 96 million acres of U.S. cropland, 11 million acres more than the prior year. This was nearly 1 out of every 3 acres harvested.

On a commodity basis, here are the ranking export items listed along with the biggest suppliers.

Wheat: Valued at \$4.7 billion, wheat was our No. 1 export crop. Kansas, with overseas sales of \$1.1 billion, was the top exporter, followed by North Dakota (\$642 million), Oklahoma (\$440 million), Texas (\$275 million), and Montana (\$265 million).

Feed grains: Exports were valued at \$4.7 billion with the top shippers being: Illinois (\$783 million), Iowa

(\$738 million), Nebraska (\$497 million), Indiana (\$391 million), and Texas (\$382 million).

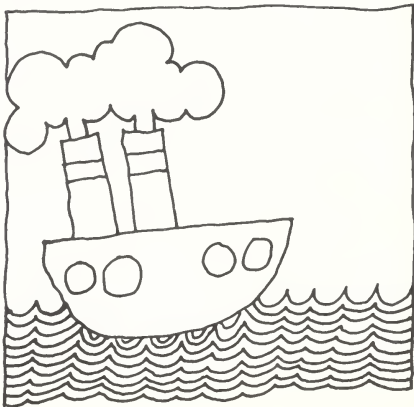
Soybeans: Third on the list of overseas export items, soybean sales added up to \$3.3 billion in fiscal 1974. Major suppliers were: Illinois (\$607 million), Iowa (\$561 million), Indiana (\$282 million), Minnesota (\$266 million), and Missouri (\$265 million).

Cotton: Fiscal 1974 sales totaled \$1.3 billion, with the ranking export States being: Texas (\$473 million), Mississippi (\$182 million), California (\$177 million), Arkansas (\$105 million), and Arizona (\$66 million).

Protein meal: Valued at \$1.1 billion, our fifth most important export was protein meal. Major suppliers were: Illinois (\$198 million), Iowa (\$183 million), Indiana (\$92 million), Minnesota (\$91 million), and Missouri (\$87 million).

Tobacco: Sales of unmanufactured tobacco totaled \$814 million in fiscal 1974. Top exporter was North Carolina, with shipments valued at \$456 million, followed by Kentucky (\$82 million), South Carolina (\$76 million), Virginia (\$72 million), and Georgia (\$56 million).

(State export figures shown in this story are not actual exports but based on contributions to the Nation's total output.)



SURVEYSCOPE

To give our readers a clearer picture of the vast scope of SRS activities, Agricultural Situation presents a series of articles on special surveys undertaken in various States. While these are not national surveys, they are important to the agriculture in individual States.

Data collected in several special yield surveys help unravel much of the mystery surrounding production of four important California fruit and nut crops.

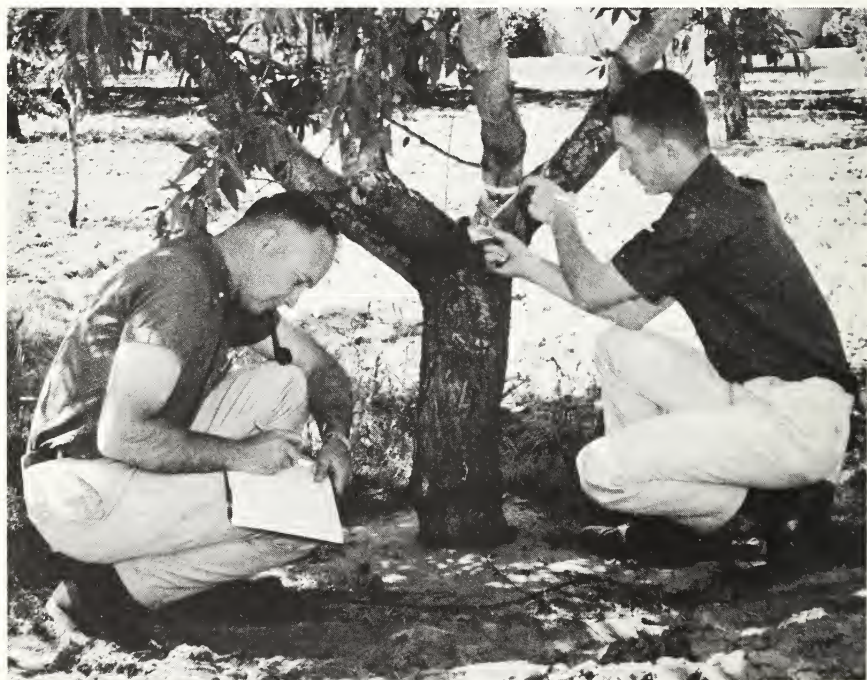
Golden State farmers—the Nation's leading producers of almonds, clingstone peaches, walnuts, lemons, and grapes—use early production forecasts to effectively market these fruit and nut crops, explains Ward W. Henderson, Statistician in Charge of the California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service in Sacramento.

In June enumerators select

almonds from 1,400 trees to size, grade, and measure for nutmeat length, width, thickness and weight. The data obtained are used by statisticians in Henderson's office to estimate production in July, several months ahead of harvest.

California produced over 99 percent of the Nation's 1973 almond crop, 134,000 in-shell tons valued at more than \$192 million.

Turning to the State's second most important nut, the walnut, a yield survey is conducted during August when the nuts are near full size and shells have hardened.



Data collected in several special yield surveys help unravel much of the mystery. . .

Enumerators visit a randomly selected group of walnut trees to count, pick, measure, weigh, and examine the sample nuts for general quality. This data helps statisticians arrive at production estimates.

California farmers harvested over 173,000 tons of walnuts in 1973 valued at over \$100 million. This accounted for 99 percent of the total U.S. crop.

Clingstone peaches are surveyed each year after 80 to 90 percent of the pit tips have hardened—when the immature fruit measurements can be correlated to harvest size.

Field visits provide SRS statisticians with data to predict median harvest size, daily growth rate, in-box size, and yield per acre.

Production figures for 1973 show California farmers produced 66 percent of the Nation's peaches, and nearly all of the clingstone peaches. The State's 647,000 tons of clingstone peaches were valued at over \$63 million.

Enumerators visit nearly 1,000 producers each June for a grape survey. They count the number of bunches per vine and measure the length, width, and weight on a sample of the clusters. Further examination of one bunch per vine includes measurements of bunch thickness and number of sound berries.

By sampling three consecutive vines within each sample vineyard on August 1, statisticians are able to improve early season grape forecasts.

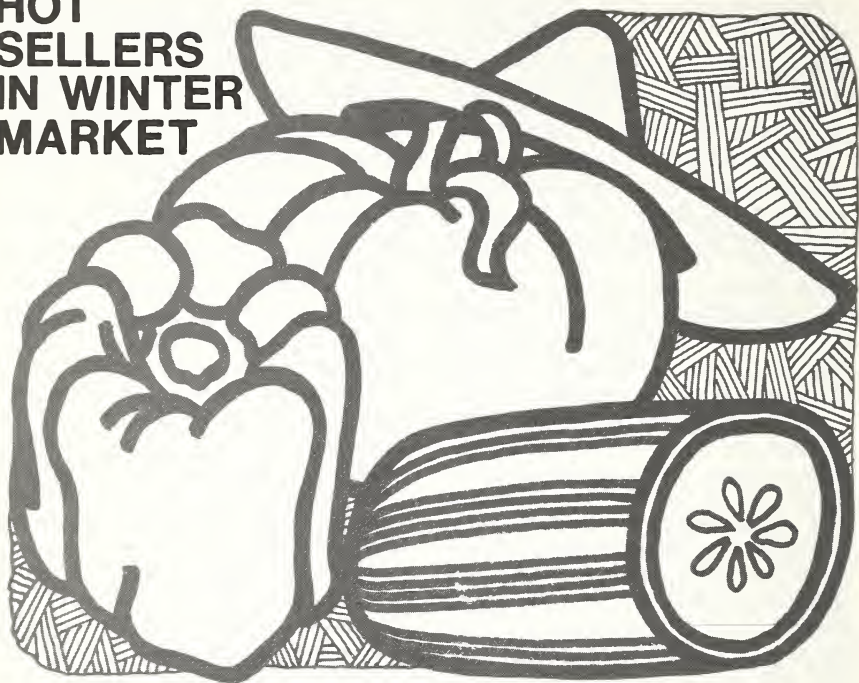
California grape growers produced nearly 4 million tons in 1973, including raisin, table, and wine varieties. The crop was valued at \$609 million and equalled 90 percent of the total U.S. production during 1973.

Cooperating with SRS on these five yield surveys are the various California fruit and nut industry organizations, State agricultural agencies, and universities.



...surrounding the production of four important fruit and nut crops in California.

HOT SELLERS IN WINTER MARKET



Winter sales of fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, and green peppers have shot up fast in recent years, but not without growing pains for the top two suppliers in the U.S. market—Florida and Mexico.

In vying with one another for winter vegetable sales, Florida has had to revamp and reorganize many of its production and marketing tactics, while Mexico has been forced to boost its imports of many of the inputs used in producing and packing vegetables.

Yet for all their efforts, the contest is still nip and tuck between the two.

Mexico still has the edge when it comes to production costs, chiefly because of its low wage rates. But Florida often enjoys offsetting low transportation costs, because of its proximity to many major U.S. markets.

USDA economists recently studied some of the major trends and developments affecting Florida's and Mexico's competitive position in

the U.S. winter vegetable market. Below are some highlights of their study:

Growth rates. Florida has increased its tomato production dramatically following a 1969/70 low.

Tomato marketings over the last 5 years have increased at an annual rate of over 18 percent. Cucumber sales have gone up about 6 percent yearly. However, pepper production, beset by a virus disease, has been dropping about 4 percent a year over the last few years.

Mexican shipments of winter vegetables to the United States have climbed at an annual rate of 8 percent. Shipments of peppers and cucumbers rose 14 and 13 percent, respectively. However, Mexico's tomato sales have achieved only a 1-percent annual growth rate of late, following a big surge in 1969/70.

In Florida, new technologies for tomatoes. Florida's tomato production and handling techniques have

been thoroughly revamped in recent years in response to Mexico's market challenge.

Most notable of the recent changes has been the shift in the type of tomatoes grown, the adoption of laborsaving technologies, and a marked alteration in shipping practices.

Of late, the vine ripe tomato has fallen out of favor with Florida producers—mainly because of its high production, harvesting, and handling costs.

The current enthusiasm is for production of mature greens, which don't have to be picked as often as vine ripers and can be jumble packed with automatic carton fillers. (The vine ripers require hand picking and packing.)

Easier harvesting is also a factor in the move toward production of mature green tomatoes on stakes. And growers are also shifting over rapidly to the use of bulk pallet bins (rather than field boxes), augmented with automatic bin dumps at the packinghouses. Not only has the highly automated harvest system proven more cost efficient, handlers report there is less fruit damage as well.

Florida's shipping practices are also in the midst of a major modification.

Historically, mature green tomatoes have been shipped to intermediate handlers with ripening rooms located near the consuming centers.

This practice continues, but is gradually being supplanted by ripening rooms operated in conjunction with the packinghouses. Currently about a third of Florida's mature greens are being ripened at the shipping point.

While this new practice has not reduced the growing, harvesting, and packing costs, savings have occurred between the shipping point and the consumer.

For example, the industry has

shifted from 40- and 60-pound cartons to 30-pound cartons. With the product already showing color, the smaller container can be shipped directly to the retail outlet. Moreover, the quantity of tomatoes in the "pipeline" can be reduced with some savings on costs, lower fruit losses, and higher quality. The net result should be a reduction in marketing costs for Florida's mature green tomatoes.

Mexican tomatoes: Sticking with the status quo. The recent changes in the Mexican tomato industry aren't nearly as dramatic as for Florida. The bulk of Mexico's tomatoes are vine ripe, but in recent years there has been a slight gain in the mature greens grown.

This trend is expected to continue since essentially the same types of economic pressures experienced by Florida growers are beginning to be felt in Mexico.

Tomato costs compared. Mexico's lower wage rates give it a decided advantage over Florida in costs of production—86 cents versus \$2.40 per 30-pound carton. But this difference is practically offset by Mexico's higher costs for getting its tomatoes harvested, packed, and exported to the United States.

Total cost for Florida mature greens at the f.o.b. shipping point was \$4.86 in 1973/74, versus \$4.64 for Mexican vine ripened tomatoes f.o.b. Nogales, Ariz.

The 20-cent per 30-pound carton cost advantage enjoyed by Mexico doesn't in itself give Mexican growers a competitive edge. Factors which give Florida a relative advantage are its proximity to more than half of the U.S. population and a reputation for higher quality tomatoes.

In the future, Mexico's cost advantage may vanish altogether. Mexican national policy and strong social pressures are bringing about significant wage increases. In 1973/74 the wage rate south of the

border increased by about a third (compared with 7 percent in Florida). And a 35-percent hike in wages has been projected for the 1974/75 season in Mexico.

The pepper picture. Florida's green pepper production has yet to recover from the disastrous effects of a virus that virtually wiped out the 1969/70 crop, and still threatens current output.

Consequently, Mexico's bid for larger sales in the U.S. market has gone virtually uncontested in recent years.

On a cost basis, pepper production costs came to 94 cents a bushel in Mexico during the 1973/74 season. Florida's production costs were much higher, \$2.10 a bushel. This difference was almost offset by higher marketing costs for Mexico. Total costs at the f.o.b. points for Florida and Mexico were \$4.15 and \$4.01 a bushel, respectively.

Cucumbers: No contest: Mexico, by virtue of its slightly warmer climate, is and probably will stay the No. 1 supplier of cucumbers to the United States during the winter quarter—even though Florida enjoys a considerable cost advantage.

The biggest differences in the two production areas are in the growth of cucumbers on stakes in Mexico and the seasonality of supplies.

Florida's cucumber marketings are heaviest in the fall and spring months—with only 25 percent sold in the winter. This, however, is the season when Mexico's sales are heaviest. So for this one winter vegetable crop, there really isn't much of a contest.

Production costs for cucumbers totaled \$1.58 a bushel in Mexico last season, only about half the production cost figure in Florida. But Mexican growers paid 50 percent higher marketing costs than Florida growers. Total f.o.b. costs during the 1973/74 season gave Florida a 23-cent cost advantage on the cucumber scene.

CORN STARCH PLASTICS

Of the many ways in which cornstarch is used, none may end up being more important to present and future generations of Americans than a biodegradable plastic developed recently by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

By adding cornstarch to standard formulas for producing polyvinyl plastics, the researchers have come up with a plastic that's much more susceptible to biological decay—which is crucially important in the battle against pollution.

Present plastics don't decompose easily—and many can't be burned because they release toxic compounds into the air.

The use of cornstarch also has another plus in plastic manufacture—it saves on use of high priced and scarce petroleum-derived polymers and resins, the starting materials for plastics.

USDA scientists envision a host of uses for the new starch plastics—especially in one-time-use consumer articles.

In agriculture, the likeliest benefits would be in films used for mulching vegetable crops.

Laboratory experiments indicate that the lifespan of the new plastic film sheets can be controlled by applying varying thicknesses of vinyl resin coatings.

The researchers suggest that when the film sheet is used as a crop mulch, the different coating thicknesses could be correlated to the different growing times of various crops.

At harvest time, the protective vinyl-resin would deteriorate, exposing the starch-plastic film sheet to the erosive factors of sun, wind and rain.

The new film sheet would thus save farmers the time and expense they now incur in removing nondegradable plastic from fields.

Briefings

RECENT REPORTS BY USDA OF ECONOMIC, MARKETING, AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FARMERS

FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES for 1974/75 are estimated at 187 million tons, down more than a fifth from last season and the smallest since 1957/58, when U. S. livestock inventories were smaller and foreign demand for U. S. feed grains was less. The tight supply situation will allow for a modest increase in the volumes of feed grains used for food, industry, and seed in 1974/75 . . . but will drastically reduce the amount going for domestic feeding of livestock, poultry, and dairy animals and for exports. USDA economists anticipate feed grain prices will be substantially higher than in 1973/74. Carryover stocks at the end of this season will be down to minimal levels.

IMPACT ON LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION . . . Feed costs for livestock and poultry enterprises are high in relation to what producers have been able to get for their products. As a result, many producers are reducing the size of their operations, curtailing output of grain-fed livestock and poultry products. This will show up at the retail level first in pork and poultry products. Fed beef production is smaller than a year ago, but there has been a sharp boost in slaughter of cattle directly off grass. Consequently, total beef production is up and is expected to stay ahead of last year through first half 1975.

WHEAT SITUATION . . . Despite a record 1974 harvest, total wheat supplies in 1974/75 are 6 percent less than a year ago since carryin stocks of 249 million bushels were the smallest in more than 25 years. Domestic food use may total close to 530 million bushels, according to USDA economists, while strong world demand seems to indicate we could be headed for another billion bushel export year, perhaps even more.

FEEDING TO FALL . . . Price relationships and prospective low livestock and poultry output are expected to keep wheat feeding well below

the level of recent years. USDA economists figure it may total about 100 million bushels, the lowest annual feed use in 7 years. Adding together projected U.S. food and feed use and exports, ending wheat stocks are likely to remain about unchanged from the low level of July 1, 1974.

SOYBEAN SITUATION . . . Sharply reduced U. S. supplies and higher prices in 1974/75 are halting the uptrend in soybean use. Based on November 1 crop prospects, supplies total 1.42 billion bushels, about 13 percent below the record 1.6 billion in 1973/74. USDA economists figure disappearance will total about 1.36 billion bushels, about 100 million more than 1974 production but 7 percent under last season. As a result, carryover stocks September 1, 1975 could be down to around 60 million bushels, a mere 2-weeks' supply. Carryover of old crop soybeans on September 1, 1974 was 172 million bushels.

COTTON PROSPECTS . . . The current downturn in general economic activity is taking its toll on the U.S. textile industry. With unemployment increasing and inflation eroding buying power, demand for textile goods in general and cotton products in particular is shrinking. This has resulted in recent production cutbacks and temporary mill closings. Recovery may be at least a year away. Thus, cotton farmers are caught between declining prices on the one hand and increasing production costs on the other. Cotton acreage is likely to drop in 1975, considering the attractive price prospects for competing crops such as soybeans and grain sorghum.

USE AND STOCKS . . . Weaker demand will cause total cotton use in 1974/75 to fall substantially below last season's 7-year high of 13.6 million bales. Combined domestic use and exports will probably total between 10.3 and 11.3 million bales. So with 1974 cotton production above that, USDA economists expect stocks to increase by a little over a million bales during 1974/75 to around 5 million by next August.

FARM INCOME OFF . . . Despite generally higher farm prices, net farm income in 1974 was no match for the record set in 1973. USDA economists gage net earnings to be around \$27 billion, off \$5 billion from the year before. Marketing receipts were up around \$6 billion. An \$8-billion gain in crop receipts was more than enough to offset a \$2-billion drop in livestock earnings. However, production expenses shot up by \$10 billion, as all major inputs except feeder cattle recorded price increases. Consequently farmers ended up with less cash in their pocket.

Statistical Barometer

Item	1972	1973	1974—latest available data
Farm Income:			
Volume of farm marketings (1967=100)	113	116	115
Cash receipts from farm marketings (\$bil.)	61.0	88.6	94.5
Realized gross farm income (\$bil.)	69.9	97.0	102.1
Production expenses (\$bil.)	52.4	64.7	78.5
Realized net farm income (\$bil.)	17.5	32.2	23.6
Income and Spending:			
Disposable personal income (\$bil.)	802.5	903.7	990.8
Expenditures for food (\$bil.)	123.4	143.6	167.3
Share of income spent for food (percent)	15.4	15.9	16.9
Prices:			
Consumer price index, all items (1967=100)	125	133	152 September
Food (1967=100)	124	141	165 September
Farm Food Market Basket:³			
Retail cost (1967=100)	121	142	165 October
Farm value (1967=100)	125	167	175 October
Farmer's share of retail cost (percent)	40	46	41 October
Agricultural Trade:			
Agricultural exports (\$bil.)	9.4	17.7	15.8 Jan.-Sept.
Agricultural imports (\$bil.)	6.5	8.4	7.8 Jan.-Sept.
Farm Production and Efficiency:			
Farm output, total (1967=100)	110	112	109 November
Livestock (1967=100)	108	105	109 November
Meat animals (1967=100)	110	109	116 November
Dairy products (1967=100)	102	98	97 November
Poultry and eggs (1967=100)	109	106	106 November
Crops (1967=100)	113	120	110 November
Feed grains (1967=100)	112	115	92 November
Hay and forage (1967=100)	105	109	102 November
Food grains (1967=100)	102	113	119 November
Sugar (1967=100)	128	116	106 November
Vegetables (1967=100)	101	102	103 November
Fruits and nuts (1967=100)	104	124	132 November
Cotton (1967=100)	187	174	162 November
Tobacco (1967=100)	88	89	100 November
Oil crops (1967=100)	131	156	130 November
Cropland used for crops (1967=100)	98	104	106 November
Crop production per acre (1967=100)	115	115	104 November

¹Preliminary.

²Annual rate, seasonally adjusted, third quarter.

³Average annual quantities per family and single person households bought by wage and clerical workers, 1960-61, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics figures.

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